

In the Specification

Examiner objected to the specification for various informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to correct the informalities. No new matter has been added.

Amend page 7, lines 28-29, of the specification as follows:

spinner, and in fact, ~~is not~~ may be configured to provide stationary (rather than spinning) appearance in use.

Please amend page 14, lines 20-30, as follows:

For example, turning to Figures 6 and 7, the aligning mechanism **160**, **260** functions to return the self-aligning wheel assembly **100** from a first position (shown in Figure 6A) in which the wheel spinner openings **133** and visual elements **125** are substantially misaligned, to a "home" position (shown in Figure 7) wherein the wheel spinner openings **133** and the visual elements **125** are substantially aligned. In one embodiment, the openings **133** and visual elements **125** are substantially aligned when they are substantially concentric. The openings **133** and visual elements **125** are considered to be substantially aligned when their respective perimeters are substantially aligned relative to each other as shown in Figure 7. The openings **133** and visual elements **125** are considered to be misaligned when their respective perimeters are not substantially aligned relative to each other as shown in Figure 6A. Figure 6A also shows outer perimeter or border **126** of individual visual elements **125** and central axis of rotation **131**.

Amend page 15, line 24 to page 16, line 3 as follows:

Figures 8A-8B illustrate yet another embodiment of the invention wherein the aligning mechanism **260** is triggered to substantially align the self-aligning wheel assembly **200** in response to a pre-determined condition. For example, in the depicted embodiment the aligning mechanism **260** includes an electromagnet **264**, an optical or other similar sensor **265** and a controller **266**. These components are configured for communication between one another by electrical, wireless, or other similar means. In one embodiment, an indexing mark **267** or other similar locator is provided on the

interior surface of the wheel spinner 230 as shown. Thus, in a manner that will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art in light of this disclosure, the controller 266 can monitor the position of the indexing mark 267 via the sensor 265 and thereby derive the rotational velocity and relative position of the wheel spinner 230. Figure 8A also shows rim 222, visual elements 225, recesses 234, and decorative cap 250. Figure 8B also illustrates vehicle wheel mount bolts 219, bearing assembly 240, bearing housing 242, slots 246, and bearing pin or screw 248.

Amend page 17, lines 18-25, of the specification as follows:

As will be understood by one skilled in the art in light of this disclosure, many different mechanisms may be used to lock the spinner 330 in place relative to the wheel 320. For example, as illustrated in Figure 9A, a selectively-locking wheel assembly 300 is depicted comprising a wheel spinner ~~320~~ 330, a bearing assembly 340, and a screw 373 or other similar fastener for selectively coupling the wheel spinner ~~320~~ 330 to the bearing assembly 340. As is apparent from the detail illustration provided by Figure 9B, the bearing assembly 340 is constructed and mounted to a vehicle's wheel mount bolts 319 as described above. Figure 9A also illustrates rim 322, openings 333, and recesses 334. Figure 9B also illustrates bearing housing 342, slots 346, decorative cap 350 and aligning mechanism 360.

Amend page 18, lines 4-16, of the specification as follows:

Figures 10A and 10B illustrate a selectively-locking wheel assembly 400 in accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention. In particular, Figure 10A illustrates a front view of a selectively-locking wheel assembly 400 according to one embodiment wherein a wheel spinner ~~430, a bearing assembly 440,~~ and a wheel 420 having various visual elements 425 disposed thereon are constructed as described above. According to the depicted embodiment, a locking mechanism 470 is provided that is comprised of a cap-nut 475. The cap-nut 475 is adapted for engaging the portion of wheel mount bolt 419 that extends through the bearing assembly 340 (see Figure 9B). The cap-nut 475 is provided in place of at least one of the above-described lug nuts (not shown). The cap-nut 475 engages a wheel mount bolt ~~439~~ 419 through a conventional access hole

436 of the type described above. In one embodiment, the cap-nut **475** is longer than conventional lug nuts and thus, may be seated within the access hole to restrict rotational movement of the wheel spinner **430**. Figure 10A also illustrates rim **422**, openings **433**, recesses **434**, axis of rotation **441**, and slots **446**.

Amend page 19, lines 10-11, of the specification as follows:

Accordingly, a multiple team football helmet effect may be produced for viewers of the football helmet-themed wheel assembly **500** at relatively low speeds. Figure 11 also illustrates tire **517**.